



Flood's losses give way to sunny outcome

Foothills solar plan would compensate for power generated by lost canyon dam

Among the brightest stories to wash up in the aftermath of the otherwise tragic September 2013 Flood is one that is still in the telling.

It begins with a dam, pinched into Big Thompson Canyon to hold back the river, a hefty pipeline buried in the riverbank downstream and two big electric generators housed in a low brick building on the west end of Loveland's Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park.

All, including the serene little park, were mostly destroyed by the raging river on Sept. 12-13, 2013. That's not the way a good story usually begins.

But the story's ending seems likely to be set on a ridgetop in little Loveland where, if the stars align, an 18-acre field of gleaming solar panels will spread next year. Mounted on racks that move to keep them optimally trained to the sun, the panels would generate more electricity than the old canyon dam and power plant ever did, and will make Loveland a model for renewable energy innovation.

"This is exciting in so many ways and one of them is that no one has ever done anything like this before, working with FEMA in the wake of a natural disaster," said Gretchen Stanford, customer service manager for Loveland Water and Power and project manager for the Foothills Solar and Substation Facility.

"It's a groundbreaking, first-in-the-nation project, and one that the



Employees of Boulder-based Namaste Solar Inc. place solar panels on a commercial building rooftop. Namaste is among three solar contractors who responded to a request for proposals from the City of Loveland for the planned Foothills Solar and Substation Facility.

City can be very proud of. No one two years ago could have known that the flood would open a door to something as beneficial, and sensible, as this could become."

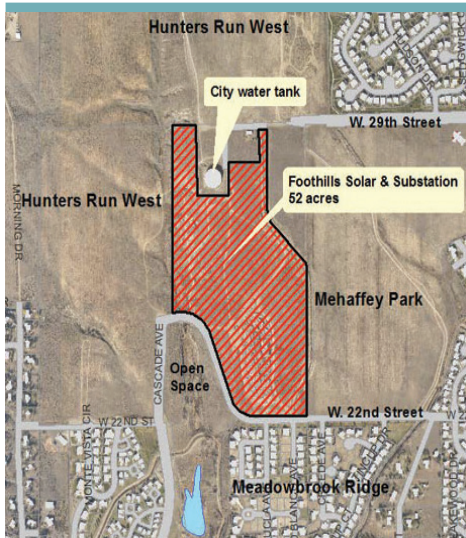
Dam gives twice

The Idylwilde Dam was rendered a battered concrete hulk by floodwater. After the flood, it gave its life twice over. First, it became the critical ingredient in the rush to reopen the canyon sections of U.S. Highway 34, 80 percent destroyed by the flood. Road builders ripped the dam apart, then used the concrete along with the rock and gravel deposited behind it for a new roadbed.

The dam lived again through its value, including the pipeline and

power plant, determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be a hair over \$9 million. FEMA, with a stroke of fresh thinking uncommon in federal bureaucracy, opened the door to what it calls an "alternate pilot project," committing the agency's reimbursement for the dam to a renewable energy project that would replace its lost generating capacity.

The project awaits final FEMA and state approval, the last steps before a construction timetable that FEMA says must be complete by December 2016. When built, the Foothills solar project would generate about two to three megawatts of power, enough to meet the needs of 300 to 450



Learn more at CityofLoveland.org/Foothills

The City of Loveland's Water & Power Department has compiled a comprehensive collection of documents related to the Foothills Solar and Substation project at www.CityofLoveland.org/Foothills.

SOLAR (from page 1)

Loveland households.

While the solar generating plant by itself would be a bright outcome to the flood story, it is not the only one. The 58-acre Meadowbrook Ridge property, purchased by the City's Water and Power Department in April for \$833,000, will also accommodate a new substation, conveniently built on the northern edge of the solar array.

The need for the substation was underscored when floodwaters threatened the existing West Substation, a primary power distribution point near the Big Thompson east of Namaqua Road that supplies about 20 percent of Loveland homes and businesses.

Costs line up

The \$5.1 million projected cost for the solar project and \$4 million for the new substation together match the \$9.1 million FEMA reimbursement for the loss of the hydroelectric project.

Completing the Foothills package



A concept plan for the Foothills Solar and Substation shows how solar panels would be aligned on 18 acres of Meadowbrook Ridge. **Map top left** shows the location of the 52-acre site purchased by the City in April.

is the dedication of the western portion of the land, about half the total acreage, as public open space under management of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. That addition would augment other city parks and open lands acquisitions, including the newly opened MeHAffey Park just east of the site.

The City's Water and Power and Development Services departments collaborated on a wide-ranging road show for the project, presenting the plan at neighborhood meetings this fall that drew residents of the Quail Run and Meadowbrook Ridge subdivisions to the south and Hunters Run to the north. The Loveland Utilities Commission, Planning Commission and City Council also sat for presentations.

"The public outreach program for this project was more extensive than any the City has ever undertaken," project manager Stanford said. "In

effect, we put ourselves through a public review process that was more rigorous than any that a private developer has faced."

The City's windfall

Planning Commission and City Council approval of a rezoning request that opens the land for the Foothills Solar and Substation Facility sets aside prior development plans that would have led to the building of 150 townhomes and 107 single-family homes on the ridgetop. The low-profile solar field will keep the horizon intact.

"From a land-use perspective, this is a real windfall for the City and for the residents of west Loveland," said Kerri Burchett, the City's senior planner who steered Foothills through public hearings. "We hear so much about 'win-win' projects that it has become a cliché. But once this project goes forward, we can truly say that everyone in Loveland wins."

Historic Preservation Commission opens seat to high school-aged citizens

The Loveland Historic Preservation Commission is accepting applications from resident high school students, residing within city limits to have a seat on the commission.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a student with an interest in historic preservation to gain valuable community leadership experience, learn about the local political process and the historic preservation of Loveland structures.



The commission, which amended its policy to enable a high schooler to join them, believes a student member will be able to elicit fresh ideas and assist the adult commissioners in educating and developing the next generation of local preservationists.

This is a volunteer position and requires that the student commissioner commits to attending meetings scheduled on the third Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. The student

commissioner would be excused from meetings during school breaks.

Any interested high school resident is encouraged to apply.

For more information or to apply, contact Nikki Garshelis at 962-2346 or email Nikki.Garshelis@cityofloveland.org.

New Year, New You!

Chilson Winter Break Passes

On sale December 1-31, 2015

The Winter Break Pass is good for **UNLIMITED USE** of the Chilson Recreation Center from December 19, 2015 through January 4, 2016

Youth: \$17 • Adult: \$22
College Students: \$34 (3 wks)
(with Student ID) \$44 (4 wks)

Call 970-962-2FUN for more information

Chilson Recreation Center 700 E 4th Street / Loveland, CO / 970-962-2FUN / www.CityofLoveland.org

Available DEC 1

Visitor Center kicks off the holidays with activities, shopping and fun

Join the Loveland Visitors Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21 to kick-off the holiday season. This family-friendly event will feature free

photos with Santa, food, hot chocolate, a Loveland Laser Tag laser shooting challenge, horse rides from Sylvan Dale, barrel train rides, performances by the Dickens

Carolers, an arts and crafts station, glitter tattoos and more – all free and open to the public.

Great prizes from Loveland Laser Tag, the Colorado Eagles, Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch, and Candlelight Dinner

Theater will be given out to lucky winners. The first 500 people will receive a Visit Loveland goody bag.

This year the Visitors Center is partnering with a local food bank and the first 250 people to bring a non-perishable food item will also receive a Visit Loveland ornament (limit one per family).

While the kids are enjoying all the fun activities, parents can get a head start on their holiday shopping inside the Visitors Center which offers a variety of apparel, jewelry, art, gifts and more. For more information go to [Visit Loveland CO.com](http://VisitLovelandCO.com).



Something for everyone over the holidays at the Rialto

Experience traditional and joy-filled Irish music with a touch of contemporary holiday flair with Colcannon's Celtic Christmas on December 17.



Then throw on your cowboy hat and enjoy a toe tappin' red-hot pickin' holiday extravaganza with Timothy P. & the Rocky Mountain

Stocking Stuffers on December 19.

And bring the family for holiday-themed big-band jazz concert with Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra on December 20.

All three performances feature top-rated, award-winning musicians and have sold out



theaters across the state of Colorado. Tickets are available online at rialtotheatercenter.org.

Loveland Lights lights up the holiday season

Come to the 10th Annual Loveland Lights Celebration at the Loveland Public Library for some old-fashioned holiday cheer.

This festive event will feature decorated holiday trees and displays, musical entertainment, book and bake sales, crafts for big and little kids, gingerbread house workshops, gifts to purchase, naturalist Kevin Cook, a canned food drive, a find-the-snowman contest and more.

This year's theme is 'Snowman.' This free event runs during normal library hours. For more information go to lovelandpubliclibrary.org. Loveland Lights is sponsored by The Friends of the Loveland Library.

Naughty or Nice
Holiday Cheer!

Wednesday, December 16
1:30-3:30pm

Celebrate the holidays with the Aspen Club and your friends at the Chilson Senior Center. Enjoy the "Big Twang Theory" band who will entertain you with a variety of music. **Get dancing & have fun!** Light refreshments served. **Cost: \$7, \$5 w/SAC**

Must pre-register

Call 970-962-2783
for more information

Chilson
Recreation Center

700 E 4th Street
970-962-2FUN
www.CityofLoveland.org



SOLID WASTE DIVISION

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

HOLIDAY/ EVENT	DATE	SERVICE SCHEDULE
New Year's Day 2016	Friday 01/01/2016	Collection will be normal for the week
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday 01/18/2016	Collection will be normal for the week
Presidents' Day	Monday 02/15/2016	Collection will be normal for the week
Yard debris collection begins	Monday 03/28/2016	Weekly subscription yard debris cart service begins. Have cart curbside by 7 a.m.
Memorial Day	Monday 05/30/2016	Closed ...Collections will run one day late (Monday's collection on Tuesday, etc.)
Independence Day	Monday 07/04/2016	Closed ...Collections will run one day late (Monday's collection on Tuesday, etc.)
Labor Day	Monday 09/05/2016	Closed ...Collections will run one day late (Monday's collection on Tuesday, etc.)
Columbus Day	Monday 10/10/2016	Collection will be normal for the week
Veterans' Day	Friday 11/11/2016	Collection will be normal for the week
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday 11/24/2016	Closed ...Thursday's collection will be on Friday
Yard debris collection ends	Thursday 12/01/2016	Subscription yard debris cart service ends. Keep cart over winter. Monthly fee suspended 'til April.
Christmas Day 2016 Observed	Monday 12/25/2016	Closed ...Collections will run one day late (Monday's collection on Tuesday, etc.)

City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. Residents receive City Update according to their utility billing cycle. Timeliness of the information may be affected by recipients' billing schedule. City Update is also available around the first of every month on the City's website at www.cityofloveland.org. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, or Tom.Hacker@cityofloveland.org. The City of Loveland is committed to providing an equal opportunity for citizens and does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender. The City will make reasonable accommodations for citizens in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 962-3319 or Bettie.Greenberg@cityofloveland.org.

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LWP helps eligible residents save energy and money with home energy audits

As the seasons change and temperatures shift, it pays to know how energy efficient a home is. Homes that are not energy efficient can mean larger utility bills for residents who are forced to run air conditioning units more in the summer and gas furnaces more in the winter to achieve and maintain a comfortable indoor temperature.

An efficiency audit, offered through Efficiency Works™, arms homeowners with valuable information and access to affordable fixes that can save both money and energy over the long term.

The process is simple. After the homeowner schedules an audit, a trained energy auditor will test the home using equipment such as blower doors, which measure for leaks in the building envelope, and infrared cameras, which reveal hard-to-detect areas of air

infiltration. They also examine the home's insulation and inspect the ductwork.

Auditors also ensure that the home is safe by testing for carbon monoxide and running critical combustion safety tests on gas



A home energy auditor tests a water heater to make sure it's operating properly.

burning furnaces and water heaters to make sure these appliance are working properly. Safe combustion means that there is little or no carbon monoxide production and that 100 percent of the combustion products are vented outside at all

times. The audit only takes about an hour and costs \$60, but is valued at more than \$350.

Once the audit is complete, if areas for improvement are identified, homeowners can take advantage of various rebates plus direct installation of free

energy and water saving products to reduce energy costs and increase the comfort of the home. Efficiency Works™ will even help homeowners locate a qualified Efficiency Works™ contractor to do the home improvements.

In Loveland \$5,000 in rebates are available to those who have completed a home efficiency audit. Rebates are available for a variety of home improvements including: sealing, insulation, air conditioning units, gas furnaces and windows.

Eligibility:

- Be a residential electric customer of Estes Park Light and Power, Fort Collins Utilities, Longmont Power and Communications, or Loveland Water and Power.
- Occupy a single-family detached home or an attached townhouse that is more than one year old (new and multi-family homes are not eligible).
- Have a home efficiency audit completed on your home prior to making improvements and qualifying for rebates.
- Have the work completed by an Efficiency Works™ provider (homeowner installed/"do-it-yourself" improvements do not qualify for rebates).

Audits include:

- Whole-house visual inspection
- Blower door test
- Infrared camera scan
- Free installation of energy and water saving products including LEDs, faucet aerators, low flow shower heads, and more.

To schedule a home efficiency audit, call 1-877-981-1888 or visit www.efficiencyworks.co.



Efficiency Works™
Home

Refrigerator & Freezer Recycling

Turn your old fridge into cash. Free pick-up and \$35 rebate.



970-962-3000 cityofloveland.org/rebates



10/15

LWP lights new path for City's youth through the Loveland Energy Challenge

The Loveland Energy Challenge is a teacher-led, semester-long classroom initiative taking place at Ponderosa Elementary School and Lucile Erwin Middle School. The initiative is designed to teach students how to become 'energy smart' through education and some friendly competition.

This semester students are learning about cooling, heating, lighting and industry-specific terms such as vampire load. Classroom lesson plans and homework assignments incorporate energy efficiency programs offered by LWP such as the Home Energy Report Program. At the end of the course, students will make a plan for how to save energy for an entire year.

"The goal of the challenge is to encourage students, peers and families to take meaningful energy actions in the classroom and at home," said Loveland Water and Power Customer Relations Manager Gretchen Stanford.

SmartPower, a national non-profit marketing firm dedicated to promoting clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency, created the lesson plans and homework assignments for the initiative and monitors the progress of the challenge.

"Throughout the country our programs have been successful in creating compelling, effective and fun ways to encourage people to reduce their energy consumption. By bringing communities of people together we are able to achieve significant and real energy goals," said Brian F. Keane, President of SmartPower. "Working with the students in Loveland is a great way to demonstrate that everyone can

make a difference and students are inspiring that change for their families and neighbors."

The Loveland Energy Challenge is a partnership between Loveland Water and Power, Opower, and SmartPower, with support from participating Loveland schools and the City of Loveland. Participation by teachers and their classrooms is



Mayor Cecil Gutierrez 'high-fives' some enthusiastic Erwin Middle School students earlier this fall at the launch of the Loveland Energy Challenge.

completely voluntary.

To learn more visit lovelandenergychallenge.org. For more information about Home Energy Reports visit cityofloveland.org/energyreports.

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*Tax credit amount varies for
different EV models



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